

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Research Background

As a multicultural country, Indonesia own plethora of local languages (Kobis, 2023). Local languages which are also called as mother tongue refers to the language which is used by a group of people in a region or certain place (Benu et al., 2022). It usually develops naturally in certain area for years and have its own characteristic. Based on Ethnologue Language of the World (2005) as cited in Lopulalan et al., (2020) there are 737 of 742 languages in Indonesia which are actively used. The most of Indonesian people have their mother tongue as the first language and Bahasa Indonesia as second language. In fact, it is often found that society use two languages alternately in social interaction. Linguistically, being a bilingual in a context of multicultural is positive (Sutama et al., 2019). However, based on Eco linguistic point of view being a bilingual can trigger language loss or language death (Bodomo et al., 2009; Pine & Turin, 2017) since the sustainability of a local language depends on the time and the effort given by the speaker (Raharjo, 2004 as cited in Renjaan, 2014). Based on this phenomenon, Rabiah (2012) and Mulyadi (2014) stated that language is dynamic which means that language changes in accordance to the development of human as the user of the language.

Nowadays, due to the modernization the use of language during the social interaction is increasingly varied. Sutama et al. (2019) stated the variety of language

used indicates the absorption of new language as the borrowing words, which gives rise to a new language which affects to the endanger of local language (Kobis, 2023). Balinese language spoken in Bangli District is often associated with culture. As Ninsiana (2018) stated language and culture are tied to each other, and both cannot be separated. The variety of local language in the society can be the characteristic that differentiate one culture to another. The Balinese language spoken in that district has a wealthy history and culture. The existence of Balinese language is used as the intermediate language. In the Bangli district society, the language has several important roles as a communication tool. First, language plays a role as a system or arbitrary sound symbol which can be used to communicate (Delahunty & Garvey, 2010; Rabiah, 2012; Mu'in, 2019). System in this context means that language is formed and consist of set of rules that can enable the users or the speaker to convey and communicate the information to the hearer or the interlocutor. Second, Finegan (2008) proposed the main role of language system is to connect the meaning and expression. In other words, language is important in communication to obtain the understanding between individual. Third, it plays an important role in maintaining cultural sustainability and connecting humans with the surrounding environment (Traore, 2017; Rabiah, 2019), especially in Rice field agriculture as one of important aspects of Balinese cultural. Bangli District which located in Bangli regency, Bali is one of the areas that still carry out rice field agriculture tradition traditionally. In the midst of modernization and changes in agricultural practices, it is important to understand the role of Balinese language in

the rice field agricultural ecology and how the lexicon of the language describes the relationship between humans and nature.

Some other previous research related to preservation of lexicon have been conducted by several researchers, such as Dharmayani & Widayati (2021); Budasi et al. (2021); Suryasa & Dewi (2018); Kardana et al. (2020); Ladyanna & Almos (2019); (Putri & Nurita, 2021a). Most of the study found that agriculture lexicons are only used by the farmer, but only a few people transmitted it to the younger generation. In accordance to one of the characteristics of language extinction proposed by Whaley (2013) if a language is no longer contagious or is no longer spoken by the younger generations as its successor speakers, then the language is categorized as a language death or language extinction. So that, the researcher concludes that those lexicons are in danger of dying out and ultimately leading to extinction.

Because based on Whaley's (2013) theory, those languages are considered as endangered language, that is important to do language revitalization, so that those languages do not become truly extinct. There are several theories of language revitalization proposed by the experts. Sartini (2014) stated revitalization means revive or give vitality or new energy to the language, so that it can return to the norms or rules that have been established. Added by Yuniarti et al., (2017) language revitalization is a language attitude that encourage the society to maintain their language and prevent the influence of other languages. In the relation to the cultural continuity, Mpolada (2020) states that language revitalization plays an important role, those are to maintain cultural continuity which works as group or community

identity, knowledge of tradition, and the identity of society which relate to the language itself.

Remembering that language and culture has tightly and important relationship, to maintain cultural relations between older and younger generations, and the death of a language, especially related to the topic that will be conducted, therefore, the effort of language revitalization must be implemented immediately. In this context, important to understand how Balinese language especially in Bangli District, Bangli is used in the context of rice field agriculture, since language often reflect the relationship between human and nature; and the surrounding environment. Therefore, eco-linguistic research related to the existence of Balinese language lexicon in the context of rice field agriculture in Bangli District is not only an interesting topic but also important and must be implemented immediately.

## **1.2 Problem Identification**

Based on the research background, there is the identified problem due to the tendency of the lexicon related to rice field begin to not being mastered by the Balinese speaker, it is feared that there will be an extinction of the lexicon related to rice field in Bangli, especially in Kawan District, therefore the research of lexicon identification and lexicon recording, and publication of lexicon can be the solution which can be done to avoid the extinction of the related lexicon.

## **1.3 Problem Limitation**

The problem of the study is limited, that is only rising the issue of the existence of the Bali Language Lexicon in the Field of Rice Agriculture in Bangli District, especially in Kawan village, Gunaksa village, and Guliang village.

#### **1.4 Research Questions**

- 1.4.1. What lexicon which are used in the rice planting activities in Bangli District?
- 1.4.2. What are the status of the lexicons that are used in rice planting activities in Bangli District?
- 1.4.3. What are the efforts to revitalize the lexicons related to rice planting activities in Bangli District?

#### **1.5 Research Objectives**

- 1.5.1. To identify the lexicons which related to the rice planting activities in Bangli District.
- 1.5.2. To classify the status of the lexicons that are used in rice planting activities in Bangli District.
- 1.5.3. To analyze the effort to revitalize the lexicon related to rice planting activities in Bangli District.

#### **1.6 Significance of the Study**

This research expected have two significances which call as theoretical significance and practical benefits.

### 1.6.1. Theoretical Significance

The researcher expects that the result of this study can support, contribute, and give theoretical evidence for the finding in the study, especially for the existence of the Bali language lexicon in the field of rice agriculture in Kawan Village, Bangli, Bali.

### 1.6.2. Practical significance

Practically, this study is helpful for:

#### 1.6.2.1. Indonesian Government

The result of this study can be authentic data about two languages in Indonesia, which is the existence of the Bali language lexicon in the field of rice agriculture in Bangli District, Bangli, Bali.

#### 1.6.2.2. Linguistics Field

The result of this study can use as a reference for the next study about linguistics to conduct further research, especially about the existence of language lexicon in the field of rice agriculture.

#### 1.6.2.3. Education Field

This study can be a reference for the lecturer to teach language lexicon in the classroom. Besides that, students can use the result of this study as references in designing a similar study with a more profound analysis.

## 1.7 Key Terms

### 1.7.1 Conceptual definition

a. Language

Language is the systematic and conventional use of sounds, signs or written symbols in a human society use for communication and self-expression (Crystal, 1971-1972 as cited in Mahadi & Jafari, 2012)

b. Lexicon

Lexicon refers to a collection of words information and similar expression of linguistic in a language (Murphy, 2010).

c. Language Extinction

Language extinction refers to the condition where a language has no longer its native speakers (Atifnigar et al., 2021).

d. Language Revitalization

Language Revitalization is a term refers to the process of re-establishing an endangered language and bringing it back into full use in all walks of life (Hinton, 2001).

e. Agriculture

Agriculture is the activity of human to gather products or the crops and rear livestock (The Oxford English Dictionary, 1971 as cited in Fuller, 2014)

f. Eco-linguistics

Eco linguistic refers to the ecological studies about the interrelation between language and human thought; and language in multilingual society (Fill and Muhlhausler, 2001 as cited in Mulyadi, 2014).

### 1.7.2 Theoretical Definition

a. Language

Language is the systematic and conventional use of sounds, signs or written symbols use for communication and self-expression by the society in Bangli District.

b. Lexicon

Lexicon refers to a list of words about the words of Agriculture activity which include tools, animals, and rituals that are done before the rice planting activity, during the rice planting activity, and after rice planting activity.

c. Language Extinction

Language extinction refers to the language that is no longer used by the society in Bangli District.

d. Language Revitalization

Language Revitalization is a term refers to the process of re-establishing the endangered language in Bangli District and bringing it back into full use in all walks of life.

e. Agriculture

Agriculture is the activity of Rice Planting which is done by the society in Bangli District.

f. Eco-linguistics

Eco linguistic refers to the interrelation between language and human thought; and language in multilingual society especially in Bangli district.